GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1330
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013
WAGE RATES
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Mohan Shri P. C.;Shanavas Shri M. I.;Singh Smt. Pratibha

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum daily wage rates fixed by the Government of Himachal Pradesh under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the wage rate being given to workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) whether the workers in some States are leaving employment under MGNREGS because of not getting minimum wages under the said Scheme;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government has received any suggestions from the social organizations or State Governments/UTs in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a) Minimum daily wage rates fixed by Govt. of Himachal Pradesh under Minimum Wages Act (MWA), 1948 and effective from 01.09.2012 for unskilled workers are Rs. 150/- for non-scheduled areas and Rs. 187.50 for Scheduled Tribal Areas. The daily wage rates as notified by the Central Government under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) effective from 1.4.2013 in Himachal Pradesh is Rs. 138.00 in Non-scheduled Areas and Rs. 171.00 in Scheduled Areas.

(b) & (c) No, Madam. The average persondays per household has registered an increase in 2012-13 compared to the previous year. The demand for work, however, is influenced by factors such as available of alternative and remunerative employment opportunities outside MGNREGA, rain fall pattern, prevailing unskilled wage rates in semi-urban/urban areas, better connectivity to semi-urban/peri-urban/urban areas, etc.

(d) & (e) The Ministry has received suggestions from states and social organisations etc. regarding bringing wages under MGNREGA at par with the minimum wages notified by the State Governments for unskilled agricultural workers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The matter is sub-judice in a case before the Hon`ble Supreme Court.